



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29, 2004

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COUNTY ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSAL OF DEAD ANIMALS

Owner of Animal or Property Where Animals are Located Responsible for Removal

One sad result of the fires in San Diego County is the death of animals. In order to protect public health and safety, and to prevent the spread of disease to other animals or wildlife, County of San Diego officials have released several guidelines to follow when disposing of dead animals.

The owner of the animal, or the property on which the animal is located, is responsible for disposal, which should be done in a timely and sanitary manner. Owners who need assistance may call (619) 236-4250.

A private company is available to remove dead animals from property. A fee will apply. Cost is \$25 for a single animal weighing less than 150 pounds (single animal), \$200 for an animal weighing more than 150 pounds. Multiple large animals on the same property may be removed for a lower per-animal price. Please call (858) 279-8242 for more information.

Animals should be buried within 24 to 48 hours. Each animal should be buried in a separate pit; trench burial is permitted if necessary due to large numbers of dead livestock or wildlife.

Animals must be buried deep enough to cover the top of the carcass with 4 to 6 feet of compacted soil, earth or ground to keep predators from unearthing the carcass. Animals must be buried far enough from standing, flowing or ground water to prevent contamination, and in an area not likely to be disturbed in the near future.

Minimum setbacks include: Property lines, 25 feet; streams, creeks, ponds, lakes (high water mark), 100 feet; water wells/springs, 100 feet; ground water (minimum distance), 5 feet; major cuts or embankments, 25 feet; homes, 100 feet; other structures, 25 feet; roads/highways, 100 feet.

Burial site should be on a minimum of 5 acres to allow for proper setback and other restrictions.

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